

Rail safety is also a serious problem. In the first 5 months of last year alone, there were 54 serious rail accidents, including 2 in which entire towns were evacuated for 3 weeks, 3 in which poison gas was released, and 1 in which a train carrying 750-pound bombs derailed. Three cases involving runaway trains might have been prevented had the Federal Railroad Administration acted promptly on Congressional directives to reform power brake rules.

Safety is not a partisan issue. With added resources our committee can conduct the oversight and produce the legislation needed to reverse the disturbing increase in accidents in 1996.

I have only touched on a sampling of transportation issues from our primary list. In this Congress we also need to be dealing with a number of intricate and technical matters in the areas of water resources, public buildings, and economic development. Obviously, this Congress will be an extremely busy one and we need solid and thorough staff work to support our efforts.

In addition, at a time when the Federal Government is making drastic cutbacks, the need for close congressional oversight increases dramatically. Unfortunately, there are many issues that will receive less, or even no, attention simply because of the limits of our resources.

I can tell you as the ranking Democratic member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, there are countless challenges and frustrations in my job, but few more exasperating than trying to stretch and make do with inadequate resources. My budget, in particular, for Democratic staff on the committee is one-third of the total personnel budget for the committee. At current funding levels, we are unable to fill two vacancies or to grant staff a cost-of-living adjustment. This is not the way to attract and retain quality, expert, and experienced staff needed to accomplish the work before us.

Our committee badly needs the increased funding provided by the budget resolution. It will enhance our ability to make in-depth, informed legislative judgments and to vigorously pursue our oversight responsibilities.

In answering to the American people, I would much rather defend funding we truly need, than try to explain that our job didn't get done for the lack of resources.

There is no doubt we have to pass this resolution, and we should. It represents a good faith effort under very difficult circumstances. Accordingly, I will vote for this resolution.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). Pursuant to House Resolution 136, the previous question is ordered on the resolution, as amended.

The question is on the resolution, as amended.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Evidently a quorum is not present.

The Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 262, nays 157, not voting 14, as follows:

[Roll No. 98]

YEAS—262

Aderholt	Galleghy	Oberstar
Archer	Ganske	Obey
Armye	Gejdenson	Packard
Bachus	Gekas	Parker
Baesler	Gibbons	Paxon
Baker	Gilchrest	Pease
Ballenger	Gillmor	Peterson (PA)
Barcia	Gilman	Petri
Barr	Gonzalez	Pickering
Barrett (NE)	Goodlatte	Pickett
Bartlett	Goodling	Pitts
Barton	Goss	Pomeroy
Bass	Graham	Porter
Bateman	Granger	Portman
Bereuter	Greenwood	Pryce (OH)
Berman	Gutknecht	Quinn
Bilbray	Hall (TX)	Radanovich
Bilirakis	Hamilton	Rahall
Bliley	Hansen	Ramstad
Blunt	Hastert	Regula
Boehlert	Hastings (WA)	Riggs
Boehner	Hayworth	Riley
Bonilla	Hefley	Roemer
Bono	Hill	Rogan
Borski	Hilleary	Rogers
Boucher	Hobson	Rohrabacher
Brady	Hoekstra	Ros-Lehtinen
Brown (CA)	Horn	Roukema
Bryant	Hostettler	Royce
Bunning	Houghton	Ryun
Burr	Hoyer	Sabo
Burton	Hunter	Salmon
Buyer	Hutchinson	Sanford
Callahan	Hyde	Saxton
Calvert	Inglis	Scarborough
Camp	Jenkins	Schaefer, Dan
Campbell	John	Schaffer, Bob
Canady	Johnson (CT)	Scott
Cannon	Johnson, Sam	Sensenbrenner
Castle	Jones	Sessions
Chabot	Kasich	Shadegg
Chambliss	Kelly	Shaw
Chenoweth	Kildee	Shays
Christensen	Kilpatrick	Shimkus
Clay	Kim	Shuster
Coble	King (NY)	Sisisky
Coburn	Kingston	Skeen
Collins	Klink	Skelton
Combest	Klug	Smith (MI)
Conyers	Knollenberg	Smith (NJ)
Cook	Kolbe	Smith (OR)
Cooksey	LaFalce	Smith (TX)
Costello	LaHood	Smith, Linda
Cox	Largent	Snowbarger
Crane	Latham	Solomon
Crapo	LaTourette	Souder
Cubin	Lazio	Spence
Cunningham	Leach	Spratt
Davis (VA)	Lewis (KY)	Stearns
Deal	Linder	Stenholm
DeLay	Lipinski	Stump
Dellums	Livingston	Sununu
Diaz-Balart	LoBiondo	Talent
Dicks	Lucas	Tauzin
Dingell	Manzullo	Taylor (NC)
Doggett	Martinez	Thomas
Doolittle	McCollum	Thornberry
Dreier	McCrery	Thune
Duncan	McDade	Towns
Dunn	McHale	Traficant
Ehlers	McHugh	Upton
Ehrlich	McInnis	Visclosky
English	McKeon	Walsh
Ensign	McNulty	Wamp
Eshoo	Metcalf	Watkins
Evans	Mica	Watts (OK)
Everett	Miller (CA)	Weldon (FL)
Ewing	Miller (FL)	Weldon (PA)
Farr	Moakley	Weller
Fawell	Molinari	White
Fazio	Mollohan	Whitfield
Flake	Morella	Wicker
Foley	Murtha	Wise
Forbes	Nethercutt	Wolf
Fowler	Ney	Young (AK)
Fox	Northup	Young (FL)
Franks (NJ)	Norwood	
Frelinghuysen	Nussle	

NAYS—157

Abercrombie	Allen	Barrett (WI)
Ackerman	Baldacci	Bentsen

Berry	Hinojosa	Ortiz
Bishop	Holden	Owens
Blagojevich	Hooley	Pallone
Blumenauer	Hulshof	Pappas
Bonior	Jackson (IL)	Pastor
Boswell	Jackson-Lee	Paul
Boyd	(TX)	Payne
Brown (FL)	Jefferson	Pelosi
Brown (OH)	Johnson (WI)	Peterson (MN)
Capps	Johnson, E. B.	Poshard
Cardin	Kanjorski	Price (NC)
Carson	Kaptur	Rangel
Clayton	Kennedy (MA)	Reyes
Clement	Kennedy (RI)	Rivers
Clyburn	Kennelly	Rodriguez
Condit	Kind (WI)	Rothman
Coyne	Klecicka	Roybal-Allard
Cramer	Kucinich	Rush
Cummings	Lampson	Sanchez
Danner	Lantos	Sanders
Davis (FL)	Levin	Sandlin
DeFazio	Lewis (GA)	Sawyer
DeGette	Lofgren	Schumer
Delahunt	Lowey	Serrano
DeLauro	Luther	Sherman
Deutsch	Maloney (CT)	Skaggs
Dickey	Maloney (NY)	Slaughter
Dixon	Manton	Smith, Adam
Dooley	Markey	Snyder
Doyle	Mascara	Stabenow
Edwards	Matsui	Stark
Emerson	McCarthy (MO)	Stokes
Engel	McCarthy (NY)	Strickland
Etheridge	McDermott	Tanner
Filner	McGovern	Tauscher
Foglietta	McIntosh	Taylor (MS)
Ford	McIntyre	Thompson
Frank (MA)	McKinney	Thurman
Frost	Meehan	Tiahrt
Furse	Meek	Tierney
Gephardt	Menendez	Torres
Goode	Millender	Turner
Gordon	McDonald	Velazquez
Green	Minge	Vento
Gutierrez	Mink	Waters
Hall (OH)	Moran (KS)	Watt (NC)
Harman	Moran (VA)	Waxman
Hastings (FL)	Nadler	Wexler
Hefner	Neal	Weygand
Hilliard	Neumann	Woolsey
Hinchey	Olver	Wynn

NOT VOTING—14

Andrews	Istook	Pombo
Becerra	Lewis (CA)	Schiff
Davis (IL)	Myrick	Stupak
Fattah	Oxley	Yates
Herger	Pascrell	

□ 1206

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island, Ms. DANNER, Mrs. TAUSCHER, and Messrs. HEFNER, DIXON, LUTHER, CONDIT, BISHOP, and DAVIS of Florida changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

Messrs. FLAKE, BARTON of Texas, MILLER of California, MCHALE, SPRATT, MARTINEZ, and COSTELLO changed their vote from "nay" to "yea."

So the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid upon the table.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the resolution just passed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.